IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 5 as indicated below.

A listing of the status of all claims 1-12 in the present patent application is provided below.

1 (Currently Amended).   A method for enabling E-commerce transactions between a vendor and a consumer using a secured network having a host with stored consumer data and approved vendor information, the method comprising the steps of:

enabling the consumer to initiate an E-commerce transaction with the vendor;

enabling the vendor to transmit transaction information related to the E-commerce transaction to the host;

receiving transaction information from the vendor at the host at the secured network;

processing the transaction information at the host to determine whether the transaction information conforms with the stored consumer data and approved vendor information; and

delivering to the vendor, via the secured network, the stored consumer data to the vendor if the transaction information is determined to conform with the stored consumer data and approved vendor information wherein receipt of the stored consumer data by the vendor enables the vendor to receive payment for the E-commerce transaction.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing a secured network further comprises:

providing a virtual private network (VPN) that enables secured communication of the transaction information.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of processing the transaction information to determine whether the transaction information conforms with the stored consumer data and approved vendor information further comprises:

determining whether the transaction information contains a consumer identification indicator; and

determining whether the transaction information contains a vendor identification indicator.

4 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 3, further comprising:

determining whether the consumer identification indicator conforms with the stored consumer data; and

determining whether the vendor identification indicator conforms with the approved vendor information.

5 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for enabling E-commerce transactions between a vendor and a consumer, the apparatus comprising:

a transaction receiver that receives transaction information from the vendor at the secured network;

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a processor that processes the transaction information to determine whether the transaction information conforms with the stored consumer data and approved vendor information; and

a delivery module that delivers to the vendor the stored consumer data to the vendor if the transaction information is determined to conform with the stored consumer data and approved vendor information, wherein receipt of the stored consumer data by the vendor enables the vendor to receive payment for the E-commerce transaction.

6 (Original). The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the secured network further comprises:

a virtual private network (VPN) that enables secured communication of the transaction information.

7 (Original). The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the processor further comprises:

a consumer identification module that determines whether the transaction information contains a consumer identification indicator; and

a vendor identification module that determines whether the transaction information contains a vendor identification indicator.

8 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the consumer identification module further comprises a first conformity module that determines whether the consumer identification indicator conforms with the stored consumer data, and wherein the vendor identification module further comprises a second conformity module that determines whether the vendor identification indicator conforms with the

approved vendor information.

9 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the transaction information comprises one or more of consumer information, vendor information, transaction amount, and delivery type.

10 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the stored consumer data comprises one or more of credit card account numbers, bank account numbers, consumer name, consumer address, preferred delivery address, preferred billing address, and preferred delivery type.

11 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the transaction information comprises one or more of consumer information, vendor information, transaction amount, and delivery type.

12 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the stored consumer data comprises one or more of credit card account numbers, bank account numbers, consumer name, consumer address, preferred delivery address, preferred billing address, and preferred delivery type.